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Russia's Part in the Great War.

According to dispatches from Paris, the Russian General Staff has informed the French government that the Russian mobilization has been completed. This announcement may be subject to a certain discount, since a mobilization in eighteen days would break all Russian records for military celerity. It has taken Germany seventeen or eighteen days to mobilize on the western frontier, and Germany's railroad and transport facilities are immensely superior to Russia's. Moreover, the distances in Russia are vast and the Russian standing army is far more widely scattered in time of peace than Germany's is.

The Russian army when recruited up to its full active strength will number about 4,000,000 men. But of these 2,000,000 will hardly be available for use this year. The active army on a peace footing numbers about 1,200,000 and is being increased to 2,000,000 men in the first line. But of this aggregate 250,000 are stationed in East Asia, 70,000 in the Caucasus and 30,000 in Turkestan. It would take a month or six weeks to get a large proportion of these 350,000 to the German-Austro-Hungarian front.

Owing to the paucity of railroad facilities the mobilization of the first line troops from the interior of Russia must take place some distance back from the western boundary. That boundary is very irregular. Poland pushes forward like a big blunt wedge between Prussia and Austria. It is hemmed in on three sides by hostile territory and does not furnish a safe base for concentrating men and supplies. Kiev is probably the chief centre of mobilization to the south and some point considerably east of Warsaw the chief centre to the north.

The military expert of "The London Times" expressed the belief at the outbreak of hostilities that Russia had more than 600,000 men available as a "covering army" on the German and Austrian frontiers, and he gave it as his opinion that by August 28—nine days from to-day—there would be from twelve to sixteen army corps and twenty-four cavalry divisions at the front—at the maximum 704,000 infantry and artillery and 168,000 cavalry. During September 300,000 more could probably be pushed into the first line.

It is evident that such a force would outnumber the German and Austro-Hungarian armies opposing it. Germany has left on her eastern border only enough troops to hold the defensive positions there. If an attack is made on Russia it will probably come from the side of Austria-Hungary. Yet it is doubtful whether Austria-Hungary can now mass as many as 500,000 troops for operations in Galicia. She has need of 250,000 men in Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, must protect the Italian border and must keep a strong observation force along the Rumanian frontier. It has also been reported that one Austrian army corps has been sent to Alsace-Lorraine to reinforce the Germans. There is undoubtedly a great deal of disaffection in Austria-Hungary, and the Slav districts cannot be stripped entirely of their customary garrisons.

Everything points, therefore, to a period of comparative inactivity in the eastern theatre of operations. The only fighting there so far has been the result of reconnoitring by cavalry and small bodies of infantry. Neither side is ready for a sustained aggressive movement. It does not seem to be within the scope of German strategy to invade Russia. Such a movement would cost much and bear no military or political fruit. The further a Western European army goes into Russia the more critical its situation becomes from a military point of view. Only one Western commander—and he the greatest of modern soldiers—penetrated to Moscow, and that tragic campaign cost him his army and his empire.

The Germans and Austrians will probably not try to do what Napoleon found out to his cost was not worth doing. They will in all probability act on the defensive against the great Russian mass. Russian tradition is all for an eventual advance westward. Russian armies have fought in almost every country of Central and Northern Europe. They have crossed Austria-Hungary and Germany and marched into Paris. They are at home passing west. If the war lasts into next year a Russian advance on Berlin will probably be one of its most striking features.

It is highly important from the point of view of France, Great Britain and Belgium that Russia should bring to bear at once the pressure of her enormous military resources. It would weaken the German offensive in the west to have to defend German territory in Posen and East Prussia. The French, British and Belgians, if they can stand the Germans off, might be encouraged to try an invasion of the Rhine Province if Russia should break through in Berlin's rear. Fortune has so far favored the allies. The British mobilization on the Continent, whose completion was announced yesterday, exceeded all expectations in amount and

smoothness. It may be that the Czar's preparations have been equally successful. Yet Russia is constitutionally sluggish. The season for campaigning in Eastern Europe will end in eight or ten weeks, and a big decisive movement there would surprise most military writers. Russia likes a long war and gets stronger under the strain of one, while many other powers strike everything on the first throw and become demoralized at once if fate turns against them. The longer the war lasts the better it will suit Russia and the greater will be Russia's share in shaping and ending it.

The Red Cross Hospital Ship.

"A. H. S." sends to The Tribune \$50 for the Red Cross fund to aid the war victims, representing the cost of a waist she will go without, and urges other women to forego a gown and give the money they would have spent for it to the splendid relief work. That is a fine spirit of helpfulness and self-sacrifice. It recognizes the need of the war-harried Europeans as a claim on the rest of humanity, which should be met even at some inconvenience and cost to the individual.

Europe needs doctors, nurses, hospital supplies

The Conning Tower

SERENADE ON A WINTER-NIGHT.

Horace Book III, Ode 10.

Yon husband is stern and you're affraid, Luce;
Oh yes, there is not the least doubt of it—
But open the door, for the weather is icy,
Let me in out of it.

Oh, cruel you are to behold me waiting,
All huddled and shivered like a child here;
Expus I to the pale snow and the sweeping
Winds that wailful here.

The frost, like the sharpest of knives, cuts her
Frosty rose;
How shall you come if I freeze to death?
Come, put off the pride that is hateful to a child,

Come, ere I succumb to death!

You see, was a Tuscan— and Hercules eth me;
Or crash out my life like a mætle pen;
But who the Gehenna are you that you send me;
You're an Psychopæte!

Forsee me, I know that I fail like a peasant,
But—what can be more than a friend to me?
Wolf teeth and my pincers—just the gauntlet
present.

Make you submit to me?

Once more I implore, give my pleatings a fresh

hold;

My soul in its torment still yearns to you,

What? Think now I'll be down and die on your

threshold?

Good NIGHT, and bid dreams to me!

SAFETY-NONLINE.

What the psychology of it is we don't profess to know, but it is a fact that in stressfull times the quality and quantity of column contributions increase out of proportion to the circulation gains. Why is it? . . . Well print the best answer.

THE HORRORS OF WAR.

Gee! I'd like to up and at 'em.

When they speak of an ultimatum.

180-88.

* * *

She says: "The Belgians will refuse

To let the Germans cross the Meuse."

M. N. M.

SPEAKING OF THE HORRORS OF WAR—

From the New York News Bureau, Ticker.

Lengen, the German Chancellor, who is a noted authority on a certain subject. He was born in 1879 and was one of the founders of Berlin's military leaders.

Wait in Times Sq. for News of War—Times headline.

Well, some day—who knows?—they may get a little.

DULCY'S BROTHER ORLANDO AGAIN.

Orlando and I were reading the bulletins last night.

He says for me not to believe any of it, they'll tell you the other thing to-morrow. But it's the grandest fight the world ever saw, anyway. Funny about Belgium; she's the cockpit of Europe.

He says if they'd take his advice they'd look the Kaiser, the Czar, and the other big guys up together, and let 'em fight it out—winter to take all.

Now the Japs want to ear in. Well, I'm not to worry, he says; no danger of our getting into it.

He says the crowds at the bulletins down town are awful. But then it's the easiest thing you know to get crowd in New York. Any little thing. Stand still on Broadway and look up, and in a minute you'll have a crowd around you, all looking up too.

KALONA.

We fear that American human nature, being no better and no worse than other human nature, is very generally incapable of this intellectual feat.

According to our observation, the bulk of the American people have already taken sides, one way or the other, in the European conflict. The most we can now do is to hold the President's counsel of perfection before us and ascend as near to it as we may. We can certainly avoid passions and passionate talk and eschew that racial quarrelling which the President very admirably deprecates—achieve, in short, as much of the Wilsonian calm as in us lies.

The New Immigration Commissioner.

President Wilson's selection of Mr. Frederic C.

Porto to be Commissioner of Immigration at this port is excellent. It is admirable quite as much

as for what Mr. Howe is not as for what he is. He

is not a Democratic politician, either of the uplift or Tammany brand, and that is much to be thankful for in this place.

He is a man fitted by sympathies, training and

experience for this extremely trying work. Though a writer and social worker, he is not an theorist.

He has had a certain practical experience as a legislator in Ohio and in his Cooper Union work.

He is to take up a hard task, handicapped by an

insufficient organization and too small appropriations.

He deserves the cooperation of the President who enlisted him in that work and the general public in his endeavors to improve conditions at the country's chief gate.

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